

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 9, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. DURKEE made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. 263.]

The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred the memorial of Haym M. Salomon, for indemnity for advances of money made by his father during the revolutionary war, have had the same under consideration, and respectfully report:

1st. The claim of the memorialist is one of peculiar and decided merit, and such as to demand the most favorable consideration of Congress. It is for losses sustained by money advanced to sustain the revolutionary struggle, when public credit was bankrupt and worthless, and to support the patriots who devoted their lives and energies to securing our liberties, when all other resources had failed them; all of which is well sustained by the most conclusive proofs, adduced before your committee.

2d. During the first session of the Thirtieth Congress the Committee on Revolutionary Claims in the House of Representatives, consisting of Messrs. King of Massachusetts, Smart of Maine, Outlaw of North Carolina, Morris of Ohio, Butler of Pennsylvania, Iverson of Georgia, Newell of New Jersey, Tallmadge of New York, Bowden of Alabama, to whom the House had referred a memorial similar to that which has been laid before this committee on behalf of Haym M. Salomon, a native of Philadelphia, son and legal representative of the late Haym Salomon, merchant and banker there, carefully inquired into the allegations of the petitioner, and unanimously agreed to a report, from which the following is an extract:

“That they have fully examined the mass of documentary evidence submitted by the said memorialist, and having satisfied themselves of its authenticity, do regard it as sustaining the claim advanced by the memorialist, which they therefore recommend to the favorable consideration of the House of Representatives.”—Report No. 504.

During the first session of the Twenty-ninth Congress, the Committee on Claims in the Senate, consisting of Messrs. Pennybacker of Virginia, Morehead of Kentucky, Clayton of Delaware, Johnson of Maryland, Dickinson of New York, unanimously agreed to a report similar to that adopted by the House Committee, but too late for presentation. During the second session another report was drawn up by Senator Bradbury, placed on file, and is mainly as follows:

“That it appears from documentary evidence submitted by the memorialist that Haym Salomon, his father, contributed largely of his pecuniary means towards carrying on the war of the revolution, aiding the public treasury by frequent loans of moneys, and advancing liberally of his means to sustain many of the public men engaged in the struggle for independence, at a time when the sinews of war were essential to success. It further appears to be satisfactorily established that the confidence of Mr. Salomon was so great in the good faith of this government that he parted with his money, relying on that good faith for its return.

“He died suddenly, after the conclusion of peace, and the inventory of the estate contains a list of treasury and other evidences of indebtedness of the government of a very large amount, viz:

Loan office certificates.....	\$110,233 63
Treasury certificates.....	18,244 88
Continental liquidated dollars.....	199,214 45
Commissioners' certificates.....	17,870 37
Virginia State certificates.....	8,166 00
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	353,729 43

The fact that the father of the memorialist held *bona fide* the above amount of revolutionary paper and securities, is clearly proved by the sworn statement of the register of the probate court of the city of Philadelphia, before your committee.

3d. In addition to the above amount of revolutionary paper, at par value, held by the father of the memorialist, it is proved to the satisfaction of your committee that Haym Salomon advanced large sums of money in specie to the financial agents of the revolutionary government; that he aided the honorable Superintendent of Finance, Robert Morris, with specie, advanced in various sums and at times of great public need, to an amount exceeding \$200,000; this fact is proved by the original checks and drafts on the Bank of North America, drawn by Mr. Salomon payable to the “Superintendent of Finance,” and paid at this bank; the checks themselves are before your committee, and bear verity upon their face, and are clearly proved by the cashier of the bank, as will presently be shown.

4th. It is also in proof, before your committee, that the father of your memorialist supported from his private means many of the most distinguished men of the revolution, who devoted their lives and energies to the cause of liberty, when all other means of support and resources were exhausted.

His vast pecuniary resources, exhibited to this committee through extracts from the ledger of the first bank, were entirely devoted to the use of the revolutionary government, were in the end thus jeopardized by his sudden demise, and finally lost to his widow and family.

Among the men of the revolution whom he freely aided while they were discharging important public trusts, your committee find the names of Thomas Jefferson, (Secretary of State to Washington, and twice President;) James Madison, (twice President;) Arthur Lee,

(ambassador to France;) Baron Steuben, (inspector general of the whole continental army;) General Mifflin, (governor of Pennsylvania;) General St. Clair, (one of the best commanders;) Colonel Bland, (M. C., agent of Virginia;) J. F. Mercer, (delegate of Virginia;) Joseph Jones, (delegate of Virginia, and uncle of James Monroe;) James Wilson, (signer of Declaration of Independence, one of the principal framers of the present Constitution, and first judge appointed by Washington;) Robert Morris, (superintendent of finance,) &c.

Moneys to the amount of many thousand dollars were thus advanced, the original, uncanceled vouchers for which are now before your committee, bearing the authentic and well-recognized signatures of the persons who received them.

5th. There is also in proof before your committee the original receipts of M. Hillegos, continental treasurer, to Haym Salomon, for six of his promissory notes, to the amount of £34,758 11s. 2d., Pennsylvania currency, or ninety-two thousand six hundred-and-odd dollars, federal currency. This document shows that the whole amount was received for the benefit of the United States, and was to be so accounted for.

6th. It is also proved before your committee, by the production of the original orders and checks, that Haym Salomon sustained, from his private resources, Don Francisco Rendon, the secret ambassador of Charles III, of Spain, who was in secret alliance with the revolutionary government. Thirty-odd original orders on Mr. Salomon, and his checks on the bank for the respective amounts, are before this committee, which were never canceled, or the orders would have been surrendered. This was done at a time when the supplies of the Spanish ambassador were cut off by the activity of the British cruisers, and his funds could not reach him from home.

In a letter of Don Francisco Rendon to the governor general of Cuba, Don José Marie de Navarra, 1783, he says: "Mr. Salomon has advanced the money for the service of his most Catholic Majesty, and I am indebted to his friendship, in this particular, for the support of my character as his most Catholic Majesty's agent here, with any degree of credit or reputation; and without it, I would not have been able to render that protection and assistance to his Majesty's subjects which his Majesty enjoins and my duty requires." Moneys thus advanced, to the amount of about 10,000 Spanish dollars, remained unpaid when Mr. Salomon died shortly after.

7th. Not less distinct, as well as grateful in tone, were some of the men of the revolution in speaking of the bounties received from Mr. Salomon.

Mr. Madison, addressing his colleagues, Messrs. Randolph and Jones, while he was in the Revolutionary Congress, 1780 to 1783, says:

1. "The expediency of drawing bills on funds in Virginia, even the most unquestionable, has been tried by us in vain."

2. "I am fast relapsing into pecuniary distress. The case of my brethren is equally alarming."

3. "I have been a pensioner for some time on the favor of Mr. Haym Salomon."

4. "I am almost ashamed to reiterate my wants so incessantly to you. The kindness of our friend in Front street, near the coffee-house,

(Haym Salomon,) is a fund that will preserve me from extremities; but I never resort to it without great mortification, as he obstinately rejects all recompense. To necessitous delegates he always spares them supplies."

In 1781, Mr. Morris, superintendent of finance, wrote the president of Congress, that "the treasury was so much in arrears to the servants in the public offices, that many of them could not, without payment, perform their duties, but must have gone to jail for debts they have contracted to enable them to live."

It was at a crisis like this that Mr. Salomon aided the government and members of Congress, without any security, trusting in the honor of the American people when independence should have been secured.

8th. Omitting the item last above named as not an advance directly to our own government or public men, the evidence shows that Mr. Salomon advanced to the government a sum exceeding \$400,000, independent of the amounts advanced to the various distinguished men and patriots of the revolution, who, as stated by Robert Morris, in his report on the subject, must have gone to jail for debts contracted to live, had they not been thus relieved, and to which uncomputed amount may also be added a note for \$20,000, loaned to Robert Morris, the original of which is before your committee, and bears unmistakable evidence of having been paid by Mr. Salomon, but never accounted for or canceled by the government. These items, taken together, make an aggregate exceeding, as stated, the sum of \$400,000, which was certainly expended or advanced by Haym Salomon in direct support of the revolutionary cause. As before stated, it is proved to the entire satisfaction of your committee that the father of the memorialist held government obligations, consisting of five different species, as above shown, to the amount of \$353,729 43. This added to the amount last above named would constitute a gross sum of near \$800,000; but the memorial does not claim this amount, but is willing to concede, as your committee believes to be true, that the public securities held by the father of the memorialist, represented to the extent they go, the larger sum shown to have been advanced for the use of the government, and only asks to be indemnified to the extent of the public securities thus held, and is willing to relinquish all other demands, which your committee think is the least that can be honorably or justly tendered the memorialist at this time.

9th. Your committee, in order to be satisfied how far payments of the whole, or any part of these advances or government obligations, have had brought before them a full exemplification of all the revolutionary expenditures and payments anterior to the formation of the present government, but do not find that there is any evidence of such payments having been made to the father of the memorialist, or to his heirs or legal representatives after his death.

10th. The accounts rendered by the Superintendent of Finance, have been carefully examined, and no discharge of any of these obligations can be found.

11th. A like search has been made in the private accounts of Robert Morris, as stated upon his oath while incarcerated for debt in the year

1805, but no evidence can be found of any payments to, or charges against Haym Salomon, in any way.

12th. Your committee have next directed their inquiries to whether any payments, or liquidation of these public securities, have been made since the formation of the present government. But it is fully proved to your committee that no such payment was made; this fact is conclusively shown by the questions addressed to the First Auditor of the Treasury Department in the following words:

THOS. L. SMITH, Esq.,

First Auditor of the Treasury Department of United States:

SIR: Please be good enough to answer simply yea or nay, to the following questions, arising out of the case of Mr. H. M. Salomon, now before the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, of which I am chairman.

C. SAWTELLE,

Chairman.

First question.—Can you find that any of the annexed described paper was funded (after the present government was established) by Rachel Salomon, relict of Haym Salomon, or by either of the children of Haym Salomon, viz: Ezekiel Salomon, Sarah Salomon, Deborah Salomon, or Haym M. Salomon?

Second question.—Can you find whether any of said revolutionary paper was ever funded or paid to Thomas Fitzsimmon, M. Clarkson, J. Carson, or E. Levy, administrators of Haym Salomon?

Third question.—Can you find that said Rachel Salomon, relict, or any of the children of Haym Salomon, ever funded any kind of revolutionary paper at all, or any number or amount, after the new government was established in 1789?

Fourth question.—Can you find that the above revolutionary paper, left by Haym Salomon, was ever funded or paid to any person or persons at all, after the adoption of the present Constitution?

To this letter the First Auditor, after making a thorough examination of the archives of his department, responded as follows:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

First Auditor's Office, March 25, 1850.

SIR: I am in receipt of your letter without date, proposing the four following questions, requesting me to answer simply yea or nay.

(The questions are here inserted, as in the original.)

In reply, I have the honor to state that, after a careful search through more than ten thousand pages of records of funded certificates of revolutionary debt, being the entire series of said records, page by page, (for they do not appear to have made indexes previous to the present century,) I have to give a negative answer to each and all of your inquiries, which I accordingly hereby do.

Your letter and the accompanying verified schedule of certificates are herewith returned.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. L. SMITH, Auditor.

Hon. C. SAWTELLE, *House of Representatives.*

13th. There being no payment, as shown by these accounts before your committee of the Superintendent of Finance, before Mr. Salomon's death, nor up to the formation of the present government, and none since the present government was established, as is above shown, it follows necessarily that the government of the United States owe both indemnification and gratitude to the heirs of Haym Salomon, who deserves to rank among the first of patriots and benefactors, and that his heirs are fully entitled to the measure of the indemnity asked.

14th. It is proved to the satisfaction of your committee that Haym Salomon died soon after the acknowledgment of our independence by England, when no steps had been taken to liquidate the heavy debts due the memorialist's father. By a letter written to his chief clerk, a short time previous to his death, speaking of his decline of health and withdrawing from business, he says: "*The public securities I have, being considerable, (some \$355,000,) I wish to make inquiry what could be done with them; and another method I propose is, by lending them on the best terms, on bond and mortgage, taking them for the whole nominal value of the papers.*" This letter, written, as we might say, by a dying patriot and public benefactor, shows he had full confidence in the good faith of the government and people he had served with the bestowal of his whole pecuniary substance up to the hour of his death: which, your committee are free to say, a prosperous country, enjoyed by a grateful posterity, should not permit to be falsified.

15th. It is made satisfactory to your committee that the widow and children of Haym Salomon have never received any benefit whatever from the indebtedness of the government to their father. At the time of his death they were all infants, the eldest less than seven, and the youngest, the present memorialist, but a few weeks old. Their mother was young and a foreigner, not at all familiar with the means of protecting herself and her children's rights. Of the *five* administrators appointed, but two ever filed any account, and that but for a small portion of the estate; but no part of the public securities held by their father at the time of his death were ever reached by his widow or children. The eldest member of the family, Ezekiel Salomon, who took charge of the matter for his mother, when of age, died a few years after away from home, when the present memorialist took the case in hand, and has steadily and diligently pursued it, since the year 1827, up to the present time. Though delayed by the loss and misplacing of important papers, of which there is abundant proof, he has steadily sought to secure his rights. Much interesting and important correspondence with the most distinguished men best versed in the revolutionary history of the country, showing a united concurrence in the merits of the claim of the memorialists, is before your committee—Jared Sparks, Henry Wheaton, William C. Rives, James Madison, and others, the latter of whom, writing to the memorialist on the subject of his claim under date of February 6, 1830, says:

"DEAR SIR: The transactions shown by the papers you inclosed were for the support of the delegates to Congress, and the agency of your father therein was solicited on account of the respectability and confidence he enjoyed among those best acquainted with him."

Mr. Joseph Nourse, who was Register of the Treasury from 1777 to

1828, writing the memorialist, dated Washington, June, 1827, in reply to a request relative to his father's property, says :

"I have cast back to those periods when your honored father was agent to office of finance ; but the inroads of the British army in 1814 deprived us of every record in relation to the vouchers of the period to which I refer."

But, without amplification, these are sufficient to show that the memorialist has been vigilant in prosecuting his rights; and, though he has had numerous reports made in his favor, never could get to the end of relief.

16th. The following sworn statement by the cashier of the Bank of North America, made in obedience to the call of the committee in charge of this claim, in 1848, strongly corroborates the conclusions arrived at by your committee :

BANK OF NORTH AMERICA,
September 21, 1848.

The account of Haym Salomon with the Bank of North America appears to have been as early as the beginning of its operations, from January, 1782, and only to January, 1784, occupies fifteen entire pages of the ledger. The first forty other entire accounts, beginning also from first of the ledger, occupy in all, but fifteen pages. The same appears the proportion of the amount of his account when compared with the others.

The following are the balances, as appears in the bank book of Haym Salomon for those periods, as they are in the same handwriting as the ledger of the bank :

February 1, 1782.....	\$23,253 00
April 23, 1782.....	32,233 00
June 26, 1782.....	46,569 00
August 14, 1782.....	18,238 64
May 2, 1783.....	14,144 35
July 1, 1783.....	11,005 62
August 25, 1783.....	14,854 27
March 31, 1784.....	26,743 74

Respecting the examination of the deposition of the amount charged in the undermentioned checks or drafts to the account of Haym Salomon, paid to Robert Morris, and to Superintendent of Finance.

August 1, 1782, to Robert Morris, \$20,000 ; August 9, 1782, to ditto, \$10,000 ; August 27, 1783, \$20,000 ; October 8, 1783, \$6,000 ; October 13, 1783, \$6,000 ; October 17, 1783, \$6,000 ; October 27, 1783, \$3,000 ; October 30, 1783, \$5,000.

The above, with thirty-three other orders, amounting to upwards of one hundred thousand dollars, exclusive of the above, of various dates and amounts, appear all charged as having been paid to Robert Morris, in the day book and ledger of the bank.

The account of Robert Morris himself begins July 17, 1782, and ends May 6, 1783, being about the same period of time as Haym Salomon's account, as examined. The credit side consists principally of

two discounts, \$22,625 20. The only cash deposited by him was \$9,822 06, which appears to have been received from Haym Salomon, as Haym Salomon's account is that day charged with the exact amount stated as paid to Robert Morris.

I have examined the charges in the account of the ledger of the bank against Haym Salomon, of various dates, as received by the following persons: Jefferson, Wilson, Ross, Morris, Harrison, Pendleton, Madison, Randolph, Jones, who are said, in history, to have been members of the Congress of the Declaration, or of the subsequent session of the revolutionary legislature, and found them to agree as to dates and amounts, as well as the sums and dates of those charged to Haym Salomon, as paid to General St. Clair, General Mifflin, and Baron Steuben, with the charges of the same in the bank books.

Respecting the disposition of the funds charged to Haym Salomon, at the bank, as made payable to the persons undernamed, who, according to the journals of the revolutionary Congress, examined, as per certificate of the librarian of the House of Representatives of the United States, August 18, 1848, and according to an exemplification, marked F, from files in the Department of State, signed James Buchanan, Secretary of State, with the seal of that department, papers of old Congress, number 137, page 193, were agents, consuls, chargé d'affaires, and ministers of Louis XVI of France and Charles III of Spain, our allies of the revolution, I found by an examination of the payments to Roquebrun, said to have been the treasurer of Rochambaud's army, August 2, 1782, August 15, and August 18, 1782, amounting to \$61,404 38, which several amounts are credited on the same days in the account, as received by Roquebrun from Haym Salomon.

Sieur De La Forrest, (spelled by the ledger Forer,) consul general of France in the revolution, is credited with twenty drafts, amounting to \$31,434 39, charged in the bank book and ledger to Haym Salomon.

John Holker, consul of King Louis; the amount as payable to him is also charged to Haym Salomon's account.

Sieur Barbe Marbois, chargé d'affaires of the king; the checks charged, as far as examined, as for amounts received at the bank from Haym Salomon, by him, were credited on the bank ledger as received by Marbois from Haym Salomon.

Chevalier De La Luzerne, the French Ambassador of King Louis XVI, so friendly to this country in the revolution; all the checks charged, or so many as were examined, stated as payable to La Luzerne, were also charged on the ledger of the bank to Haym Salomon, as paid the Chevalier; and the only cash deposits of the latter agree precisely with the amount named on the check payable to him.

Don Francisco Rendon, the secret minister of Charles III, of Spain, in the revolution; the amount and date of the check charged, as payable to him, agree precisely with the ledger of the bank, as charged to Haym Salomon.

J. HOCKLEY,

Cashier of the Bank of North America.